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Boston, Dec. 17, 1847.

Dear George:

70 Was it not aggravating, after so long a separation, that we should be able merely to glance at each other, and to make but a single salutation, as we passed each other, "rail-road speed," between Boston and Providence? Great was my regret on being absent from home when you were here, for I had special desires to see you. For the last ten days, I have been thinking every day that I would jump into the cars for Springfield and Northampton, and spend a fortnight with you; but various domestic matters have prevented my doing so, and I now reluctantly "give it up." Helen has been more troubled, in regard to her "help," within the last four months, than during all the previous time for more than twelve years. Girl after girl has come, and proved inexperienced or worthless — how many, I will not begin to enumerate. To-day, we are to try again with a new hand — with what success remains to be seen. With our large family, to be without some one to do the cooking and washing, even for twenty-four hours, is a serious inconvenience. I am to have a fortnight longer to perfect my health, (which is very much improved,) before I resume the cares and responsibilities of the Liberator. My friend Quincy has been exceedingly kind and accommodating; and if my health required it, he would cheerfully remain at the editorial post almost any length of time, without charge. It will take me

some time to wear the editorial harness easily, and I shall need to be cautious, for a while, how I indulge in long protracted mental effort.

A few days since, I received a very kind letter from my worthy friend Dr. Ruggles, generously inviting me to spend some time at his water cure establishment, gratuitously, and try the effect of that process upon my system. Most grateful am I to him for his kind offer, and most readily would I embrace it, if I had not been so long absent from my post, and the cares of the family were not so onerous. — The swelling in my left side, near the diaphragm, is quite troublesome, since my fever, and Dr. Geist, the homoeopathic physician, is prescribing for it. He thinks it is of the nature of a polypus. You know there are conflicting opinions as to what it is, among the doctors.

My special object in writing is, to tell you how I am situated, pecuniarily, at the present time, and to ascertain whether you will be able to obtain for me the pecuniary relief desired, temporarily. The reduction of the price of the Liberator one half dollar, at the commencement of the last volume, lost us at least eight hundred dollars; but we were in hopes that the number of new subscribers that might thus be obtained would make up for this loss. In this, we have been woefully disappointed, our list of subscribers having increased, scarcely any at all — perhaps not more than one hundred. The consequence is, that the Liberator is stamped, — i. e. considerably in debt to the paper maker, the printer,

and the general agent. According to my usual salary, three months' salary ($300) will be due to me on the 1st of January — every cent of which will be due to my creditors on that day. This large deficit in the receipts of the Liberator, I have little doubt, the financial committee will shoulder, with the aid of others, but not in season to save my credit, which, fortunately, I have been able to keep in the most punctual manner hitherto, and which I would not lose, if it can possibly be avoided, for a good deal. Hence, I am shivering and shaking, and at my "wit's end," in view of the near approach of the 1st of January. I owe you something, already, and am therefore loath to apply to you in this emergency; and yet, I want your counsel, if nothing more. Judging from the past, I have no doubt that my salary will be fully paid, probably in all January; but of this, of course, there is no absolute certainty, as the committee are not responsible to me for a farthing. As yet, however, they have never failed to make all good. Now, dear George, overwhelmed as you are with business, can you procure for me the desired loan of $300, in season for the 1st of January, to save my credit — taking for security the amount that is due me, my integrity as a man, and whatever belongs to me in the shape of personal property? If so, I shall feel relieved of a mountain weight, and will endeavor to repay the loan as soon as my accounts shall be squared with the committee. Should you desire an interview with me, on sending me word by return of mail, I will in the course of a few hours be at Benson-

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ville in the course of a few hours; but, much as I desire to see you and Catherine, and the other friends, I should like to avoid the expense of the journey at this time, if practicable. Still, it may be necessary to see you, face to face; if so, I will cheerfully come. Helen is hoping, with me, that you will come down and be with us during Christmas week, to visit the Bazaar, &c. Can you not do so?

If by any means, if the whole loan desired cannot be obtained, any portion of it will be acceptable.

Paid.

PAID

George W. Benson,
Northampton,
Mass.

The late Mrs. Chapman generously bequeathed to me $100, which was paid to me on the day before Thanksgiving, and at a most timely period too. It enabled me to discharge sundry debts, which I otherwise could not have easily liquidated. To the best we can, our family expenses are large, and increasing unavoidably with the growth of the children. Much do I wish to see and consult with you as to the future. We are all well. Love to your wife and children. Yours, "in tribulation," W. L. Garrison.